

EU ADDED VALUE FOR ENVIRONMENT

Pieter de Pous, Policy Director
EEB on behalf of G10

Green 10



CONTENT

- Achievements of **40 years** of the EU environmental policy
- **EU added value** in environmental protection
- Outlook towards **2030**



NATURE AND BIODIVERSITY

- Otter, beaver, cranes, wolves, cormorants – just a few of the **species** enjoying a **come-back**
- Indiscriminate slaughter of **migratory birds** in the Mediterranean a fraction of what it used to be
- **LIFE Fund** instrumental in targeted funding of conservation projects, saving species like Iberian Lynx from extinction
- **Birds and Habitats Directive**, *recently confirmed fit for purpose*, key in turning around deterioration of wildlife and habitats
- Natura 2000 sites generate recreational benefits worth up to **€9 bn per annum, attract up to 2.2 bn visitor days**

Green 10



CLEAN ENERGY AND CIRCULAR ECONOMY

- Binding targets, measures and support schemes in **EU renewables and efficiency policies** are transforming energy sector to energy services provider
- Increasingly **stricter CO₂ emission and other standards for cars and vans** have reduced fuel consumption, GHG emissions and led to a change in industrial strategy away from diesel
- Combination of waste recycling policies and product design policies is cutting energy consumption and supporting a **move from linear to circular economy**
- Existing **ecodesign and energy labelling rules** deliver 6900 PJ energy savings, prevent 319 Mt CO₂ equivalent emissions, saves 336 million m³ of drinking water and bring **€112 bn net saving on consumer expenditure**

HEALTH AND SAFETY

•**Air quality standards** and targets set in EU directives are ensuring cities and governments are taking **measures to reduce air pollution**. E.g. between 2003-2013, emissions of ozone precursors decreased: CO by 32%, NMVOCs by 28%, NO_x by 30%, and CH₄ by 15%. New standards for Large Combustion Plants would **reduce annual premature deaths** from 22,900 to 2,600.

•**REACH regulation** has been a driver of useful innovation and substitution towards **safer chemicals**, triggering similar laws in major producing countries around the world.

•**Rivers and beaches have become cleaner** with important reductions in, for example, phosphorous, hazardous chemicals and heavy metals. In 2015, 84% of bathing sites in the EU were assessed as *excellent*.



EU ADDED VALUE

- 28 Member States acting towards agreed common objectives, sharing efforts and resources while following **objective measurable criteria**
- EU has become **the world's de-facto rule-maker, driving innovation and investment, providing first mover advantages to EU industry**
- Providing a level playing field to business and supporting the functioning of the internal market
- Effectively **addressing cross-border impacts of pollution and other pressures**
- A **clean environment is a fundamental right** the EU guarantees to its citizens
- EU barometers consistently show high levels of support for the EU **environmental protection** among the EU citizens



RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES

- EU role as a global standard setter is threatened by **poor enforcement** and lack of market surveillance
- But also by a Better Regulation and trade agenda that portrays regulatory instruments as part of the problem, a burden and a barrier
- A failure to see environmental policies for what they are: **critical instruments to address the biggest challenges of our time**
- Yet a globally agreed, comprehensive agenda of transformational change provides a better **approach for 17 SDG's to be achieved by 2030**

Green 10

2030 OUTLOOK

- EU environmental protection is a success story, the EU needs more of these!
- There is no time for complacency:
 - Clean energy transition needs speeding up and to cover all sectors (e.g. farming, aviation, shipping, CO₂ standards for trucks) to achieve Paris goals
 - Key drivers of biodiversity loss and water pollution, such as widespread agriculture practices, require sector-wide transformation
 - Closing the enforcement gap and where appropriate tightening of air quality standards, and chemical safety rules (e.g. setting cadmium limits for fertilizers at 20 mg/kg)
- A new 8 Environmental Action Plan to implement the environmental dimension of the SDG's and provide a framework for future action, ensuring much needed political continuity after 2019 EP elections.

THANK YOU!

Green 10

